

Towns  
Velazquez  
Vento  
Visclosky

Watt (NC)  
Waxman  
Wexler  
Wise

Woolsey  
Wynn  
Yates

## NOT VOTING—23

Archer  
Becerra  
Bonilla  
Brown (FL)  
Cannon  
Cardin  
Conyers  
Crapo  
Ford

Gillmor  
Gonzalez  
Harman  
Houghton  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kasich

McDermott  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Payne  
Rangel  
Royce  
Waters

□ 1359

The Clerk announced the following pairs:

On this vote:

Mr. Royce for, with Mr. McDermott against.

Mr. Bonilla for, with Mr. Rangel against.

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3310, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

# CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1757, FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 385 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 385

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1757) to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States and Russia, to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 385 waives all points of order against the conference report that accompanies this bill, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report be considered as read. This of course is the traditional type of rule for considering conference reports and will allow expedited consideration of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, on the conference report itself, I am pleased to say that I will be able to support a State Department authorization bill for the first time in many, many years. I am not in the habit of voting for foreign aid of any kind, and I am not in the habit of voting for the State Department authorization bill. But I think all Members ought to listen up, particularly those of conservative persuasion who may have some concern about this bill.

First of all, one reason I support it is because of the excellent work by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the rest of the conferees who have managed to retain some very excellent provisions relating to NATO expansion overseas, abortion issues and the United Nations. I am most pleased with the retention of the provision of the European Security Act, which supports something near and dear to my heart, and that is the expansion of NATO, which will guarantee peace in that part of the world for many years to come.

Twice in this century, American soldiers have gone to war on behalf of Europeans, and we fought a very, very costly financial war with the Cold War. The European Security Act designates Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania as eligible countries for transition assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994. It further expresses a sense of Congress that those four countries should be invited to become full NATO members at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Speaker, as we see democracy breaking out all over Eastern Europe, in countries that were enslaved by communism for decades, it is morally and strategically imperative that we do not shut these people out of the Western system, that we not draw a line in the sand as we did back in Yalta, which created this terrible situation of enslaving tens of millions of people behind this philosophy of deadly atheistic communism. Especially as they struggle valiantly to establish democracy and reform their economies, these great friends of America need security and stability.

That in itself is reason enough to come over here and vote yes on this

bill. NATO of course is the key to security and stability in that part of the world. For 49 years, it has kept peace and helped nourish democracy and prosperity in Europe. Some say, let us shut it down, or let us keep the status quo. Mr. Speaker, some over in the other body wish to establish some sort of pause after Poland and the Czech Republic and Hungary get in. What an irresponsible and myopic policy that would be. We must not let that happen. That in itself is sending signals that we are willing to once again draw that line in the sand, and we cannot let that happen. In addition to betraying the people of that region, after decades of Communist slavery, leaving a gray area in Central Europe will only tempt demagogues and potential aggressors in that region and make it more, yes, more likely that United States soldiers will have to fight in Europe once again.

To those who say why should U.S. soldiers die for Danzig or Bucharest or Riga, I say they are right, they should not, and if they do not want it to happen, support NATO expansion that appears in this bill, because that is exactly what this bill does.

This conference report also retains the very strong restrictions supported by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) on funding of overseas abortions and advocacy of abortions. There is not a more principled Member of this body than the gentleman from New Jersey. I commend him for standing up for what is right for the children of this Nation.

Finally, I am pleased that this conference report places strict conditions on the payment of our supposed arrears to the U.N. Members ought to listen up, because I am the author of the Kassebaum-Solomon amendment that has withheld dues from the United Nations until they cleaned up their house and they put their house in fiscal order. Yet I am the one standing up here today saying we ought to support this bill. It is because of what is written into this bill.

I have a great deal of trouble with paying these so-called arrears to the U.N., given its history of waste and abuse and, frankly, its lack of gratitude for all the expenses and danger on our troops that we incur in support of U.N. resolutions.

I also have trouble handing out any more money over to an organization whose Secretary General Kofi Annan has just cut an appeasement deal with Saddam Hussein, said that Saddam Hussein is a man he can work with and called U.S. weapons inspectors cowboys. That is what this head of the U.N. said? He ought to be horse whipped for saying it. I resent that, Mr. Speaker.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the conferees have done excellent work in placing strings on the money, strings that will help reduce bureaucracy, help reduce waste and abuse at that U.N. I am particularly pleased that they have retained